

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

ABF-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /215 W

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R 301510Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 506

INFO USUN 1644

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 28TH UNGA

REF: STATE 163147

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AUGUST 29 WITH FONOFF ACTING DIRECTOR (RACHELE) FOR UN AFFAIRS CONCERNING UPCOMING UNGA. USING BACKGROUND AND MAKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL, EMBOFF DISCUSSED FULL ARRAY OF MAJOR ISSUES EXPECTED TO COME UP DURING ASSEMBLY SESSION. FONOFF REACTION GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO U.S. VIEWS WITH DIFFERENCES INVOLVING MAINLY QUESTIONS OF DEGREE RATHER THAN ANY FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS. ONLY ITALIAN INITIATIVES PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION CONCERN ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND REVIEW OF UN CHARTER. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CORRESPOND ROUGHLY TO ORDER IN WHICH SPECIFIC ISSUES DISCUSSED IN REFTEL. GOI POSITION ON KOREAN ITEM REPORTED SEPARATELY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS. FONOFF AGREES WITH U.S. POSITION AND HAS SENT NOTE TO SECRETARY GENERAL SUPPORTING DRAFT AS IT NOW STANDS. ALTHOUGH FONOFF LAWYERS HAVE SOME MINOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, UN OFFICE IS OVERALL FAVORABLE TO CONVENTION
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AS NOW DRAFTED AND BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO DEFER EARLY ACTION IN FAVOR OF FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS.

3. TERRORISM. WHILE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HOPES FOR EARLY PROGRESS,

FONOFF AGREES WITH U.S. THAT ATTENTION SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED NOW ON CONCRETE ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES RATHER THAN ON CAUSES. ACCORDING RACHELE, GOI IS DISAPPOINTED WITH PROGRESS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE THUS FAR AND FEARS THAT NON-ALIGNED POSITION HAS STIFFENED. FONOFF SEES ONLY HOPE IN SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE AIMS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, NON-USE OF FORCE AND NAPALM AND OTHER INCENDIARIES. EMBOFF WAS REFERRED TO FONOFF DISARMAMENT OFFICE FOR GOI POSITION ON THESE THREE ITEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, DISARMAMENT OFFICE

CHIEF AWAY ON VACATION AND ACTING DIRECTOR, NEW IN THE JOB, HAD ONLY PASSING FAMILIARITY WITH SUBJECT MATTER. HOWEVER, ACTING DIRECTOR GENERALLY ECHOED VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ITALIAN REP AT AUGUST 22 WESTERN GROUP MEETING ON CCD (GENEVA 45117). ON WDC ACTING DIRECTOR NOTED IN ADDITION THAT RECENT HOVEDA PROPOSAL FOR RE-STRUCTURING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE FIVE NUCLEAR POWERS HAD CAUSED SOME PERPLEXITY AND WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY FELT IT HAD LITTLE MERIT. ACTING DIRECTOR HAD NO REPEAT NO VIEWS ON NUF BUT NOTED THAT GOI POSITION ON NAPALM QUESTION IS THAT PROPER PLACE FOR DISCUSSION IS CCD. EMBASSY WILL SEE DISARMAMENT DIRECTOR AS SOON AS HE RETURNS AND REPORT ANY VIEWS ADDITIONAL TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE REPORTED ABOVE.

5. MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING RACHELE, GOI OPPOSED AIRING OF ME ISSUE IN UNGA BUT BELIEVES ARAB-INSPIRED DEBATE IS INEVITABLE. ITALIANS WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON BALANCE IN ANY RESOLUTION PROPOSED BASED ON SC 242.

6. AFRICAN ISSUES. FONOFF CONTINUES TO FAVOR SANCTIONS PROGRAM AGAINST RHODESIA BUT IS OPPOSED TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY WHEN VIOLATIONS ARE INVOLVED. ANY VIOLATIONS BY ITALIAN FIRMS ARE PROSECUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITALIAN LAW, ACCORDING TO RACHELE. REGARDING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ITALIANS ARE SENSITIVE TO AFRICAN COMPLAINTS BUT CANNOT ACCEPT LEGALITY OF MOVEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, FONOFF FEELS THAT AFRICAN VIEWS MERIT CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERATION AND HOPES THAT EVENTUALLY SOME FORMULA CAN BE DEvised WHICH WILL LEAD TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. MEANWHILE, WHILE NOT FAVORING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PER SE, GOI BELIEVES THAT GREATER PRESSURE SHOULD BE BROUGHT ON PORTUGAL WITHIN NATO TO RECOGNIZE REALITIES AND TO ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH MOVEMENT LEADERS.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS. FONOFF COMPLETELY SUPPORTS U.S. POSITION REGARDING BALANCED ATTITUDE TOWARD RACIAL QUESTIONS AND OTHER AREAS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. AS EVIDENT FROM ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN CSCE PREPARATIONS, GOI IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN EAST-WEST CONTEXT. IN LINE WITH THIS POSITION, FONOFF HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT ITEM OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT DURING 28TH UNGA.

8. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. FONOFF AGREES AND HAS SUPPORTED U.S. POSITION ON QUESTION OF 25 PERCENT ASSESSMENT CEILING AND NEED FOR AUSTERITY IN UN FINANCES. REGARDING EFFECTS OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION ON UN BUDGETS, FONOFF HAS MATTER UNDER STUDY AND WILL TAKE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF POINTS MADE IN REFTEL FAVORING CAUTIONS APPROACH TO ANY CHANGES IN PRESENT SYSTEM.

9. ECOSOC. RACHELE SAID THAT FONOFF IN ACCORD WITH IDEA THAT AGREEMENT BE SOUGHT BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON POLICY ISSUES OF TRADE, AID AND INVESTMENT AS COVERED IN FIRST BIENNIAL REVIEW, AND THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD REFLECT PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT. ITALIANS ALSO BELIEVE THAT ECOSOC RATHER THAN UNCTAD OR OTHER AGENCIES SHOULD REVIEW AND COORDINATE UN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND THAT ENLARGEMENT OF ECOSOC GOVERNING ORGAN TO INCLUDE MORE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONTEXT.

10. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. FONOFF OPPOSES, AS WE DO, KENYAN INITIATIVE FOR SPECIAL FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND ECOSOC COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATION. FONOFF SUPPORTS UN APPLICATION OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN LDC'S BUT HAS NOT YET TAKEN POSITION ON ROMANIAN SUGGESTION FOR CREATION OF NEW UN BODY FOR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY. WILL TAKE U.S. ARGUMENTATION INTO CONSIDERATION IN ARRIVING AT DECISION. CONFIDENTIAL

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11. REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR WEST ASIA. ITALIANS BACKED U.S. POSITION IN ECOSOC IN OPPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST ASIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION EXCLUDING ISRAEL. GOI ATTITUDE REMAINS UNCHANGED.

12. SAHELIAN ZONE DROUGHT. FONOFF SUPPORTS UN-COORDINATED EFFORTS FOR RELIEF AND RECOVERY TO DROUGHT AREA.

13. ECOSOC EXPANSION. ITALIAN POSITION FAVORING ECOSOC MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION AS WELL AS GOI HOPE FOR INCLUSION IN EXPANDED BODY HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT (SEE ROME 7445).

14. POSSIBLE ITALIAN INITIATIVES. RACHELE SAID THAT NO REPEAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE GOI INITIATIVES AT UPCOMING UNGA. HOWEVER, FONOFF HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION PROPOSAL IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD (ITEM 7 ABOVE) PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. IN ADDITION, ITALIANS ARE THINKING OVER IDEA OF ADDING FRESH IMPETUS TO PROPOSAL FOR ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. FINALLY, WITH REGARD TO REVIEW OF UN CHARTER SCHEDULED FOR 1974, FONOFF IS INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF ACCELERATING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM BY INITIATING DISCUSSION

DURING 28TH UNGA IN CONTEXT OF ROMANIAN ITEM ON OR STRENGTHENING
ROLE OF UN. VOLPE

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